

REFERENCES

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24. A NOTE ON THE BREEDING HABITS OF JERDON'S
RAMANELLA, *RAMANELLA MONTANA* (JERDON, 1854)

Ramanella montana is not an uncommon microhylid in the Bombay area, at the beginning of the monsoon, but rarely seen during the other seasons of the year. I had the opportunity of studying their breeding habits at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivli, during the monsoon of 1982-83.

Breeding season and sites: The species starts to breed in the early monsoon and the breeding activity is very brief and is over within a period of 3 to 4 days. The breeding congregation of a good number of the frogs was seen in the Dahisar river of the park which has at this time a gentle flow of water. However, some of the frogs were also observed calling from a rain pool.

Call: On 20th June 1983 at 1220 hrs while it was raining heavily I heard the frogs calling from the stream. The current was very gentle and there were some stagnant pockets. The water depth was *c* 75 cm. The atmospheric temperature was 29.1°C and that of the water 28.0°C. The frogs called from the water close to the bank. The call could be syllabilised as *brong...brong...brong*. The single small vocal sac looks like a white bubble when fully inflated. On 24th June 1983 at about 1200 hrs the species was observed on both banks of the stream in heavy rain. The current was strong and the water turbid with

the temperature at 27.7°C. Litter in the form of twigs had gathered at the base of the trees on the edge of the stream. The frogs hid under the litter. Some sat above the waterlevel and were calling while others sat on the slender branches that overhung and touched the running water. On an average each call sequence was for 114 seconds. The chorus was very coarse. They were very wary of intruders and when I approached the bank, the frogs ceased calling though those on the opposite bank continued calling.

Amplexus: The amplexus was in the water and was axillary the male's forelimbs holding the female at her armpit. They were swimming freely. They swam slowly and could be caught, and though they were disturbed they continued in amplexus. A pair which was kept in a jar started laying eggs at 1145 hrs. The female lifted up the cloaca and released the eggs. After 10 seconds she again lifted up the cloaca and released more eggs. This process was continued for 15 minutes. At 1201 hrs the male released the female.

Spawn: The egg mass was obtained in the stream but in water that was more or less stagnant and had a depth of about 15 cm. The spawn was plate like with a diameter of 95 mm and the eggs similar to mustard seed were

embedded in it. The animal pole which was black in colour was exposed at the top. The eggs which were surrounded by gelatinous substance measured 1 mm in diameter.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT,
HERPETOLOGY SECTION,
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE, S. B. SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY - 400 023,
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A. G. SEKAR

25. ON THE SYNONYMY OF *Danio feegradei* HORA, 1937
FROM BURMA (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE)*

(With a text-figure)

Danio feegradei Hora was discovered and described from a single specimen from Burma. This species is proposed to be synonymized with *Danio dangila* (Hamilton 1822) in this communication.

INTRODUCTION

Hora (1937) described a new species, *Danio feegradei* based on a single specimen from Sandoway, Lower Burma. He remarked that this species falls intermediate between the genera *Danio* and *Brachydanio* in having 9 branched dorsal fin rays (2/9) and a complete lateral line. Hora & Mukerji (1934) gave a synopsis of the Indian and Burmese species of the cyprinid genus *Danio* Hamilton, including all the species then known in the two subgenera *Danio* and *Brachydanio*. Species having 12-16 branched dorsal fin rays and a complete lateral line were included under the subgenus *Danio*, and species with 7 or less branched dorsal fin rays and incomplete or absent lateral line were included under the subgenus *Brachydanio*. They included 8 species under the subgenus *Danio*. My revisionary study of the cyprinid genus *Danio* shows that 5 species are known viz., *D. dangila* (Hamilton, 1822),

D. aequipinnatus (McClelland, 1839), *D. kakhienensis* Anderson, 1878, *D. naganensis* Chaudhuri, 1912 and *D. neilgherriensis* (Day, 1867) out of the 8 species in which there are 8 to 11 branched dorsal fin rays. Comparative data of these species are shown with special reference to the number of their dorsal and anal fin rays, barbels and lateral line in Table 1. Jayaram (1981) included *D. feegradei* among the members of the subgenus *Brachydanio* without any comment for this inclusion. This species is proposed here as a synonym of *D. dangila* in view of their striking similarities in proportional measurements, meristic counts, squamation, complete lateral line and two pairs of long barbels.

A brief description of *Danio feegradei* Hora is given here.

***Danio feegradei* Hora**

Danio feegradei Hora, 1937, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 39(4): 325-327, text-fig. 3 (type-locality: Sandoway, Lower Burma). (Fig. 1).

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